Digital Curation: an introduction

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Introduction

"In the digital humanities, we use computers to help further humanities knowledge. Digital technology lets us both ask and answer questions that we couldn't otherwise tackle.", said Constance Crompton, holder of the Canadian Research Chair for Digital Humanities in an interview with Robert Greeley for uOttawa's *Gazette*.

Greeley, R. (2018). What are digital humanities, anyway?. *uOttawa Gazette*. Retrieved from https://www.uottawa.ca/en/news-all/what-are-digital-humanities-anyway

Experiential learning is learning by doing. Learning and applying digital tools not only serve to connect theory and knowledge to real-world situations but also provide transferable skills.

DIGITAL CURATION

What is digital curation?

- Digital curation is the "act of finding and selecting, grouping and contextualising, preserving, maintaining, archiving and sharing digital content."[1]
- Content items (text, video, audio, image files, datasets, etc.) can then be contextualized as timelines, stories, and exhibits.
- The Library supports the Omeka tool for this use and has knowledgeable staff to help guide you.

[1] This definition for digital curation from Advance HE, 2017-05-18. "digital curation", Terminum Plus.

Data

- Digital curation projects often start with data: texts, images, videos, sound recordings, datasets, etc.
- In context, it is often necessary to identify:
  - the type of data;
  - the metadata required for each type;
  - how the data will be used and discovered.

Metadata

- Metadata is structured data about data.
- Metadata plays an important and powerful role. It is used to describe and track primary data, even people.
- Metadata can be repurposed and mapped for different applications (statistics, network analysis, inventory, etc.)
- Metadata is organized in elements or fields. Dublin Core is such a plan.



Messy or incorrect metadata
= misinterpreted information
= false research results.

Dublin Core

A simple and generic plan (schema) composed of 15 éléments.

Content	Intellectual Property	Instantiation
Titre Subject Description Source Language Relation Coverage	Creator Publisher Contributor Rights	Date Type Format Identifier

- **Contributor**: An entity responsible for making contributions to the resource.
- **Coverage**: The spatial or temporal topic of the resource, the spatial applicability of the resource, or the jurisdiction under which the resource is relevant.
- **Creator**: An entity primarily responsible for making the resource.
- **Date**: A point or period of time associated with an event in the lifecycle of the resource.
- **Description**: An account of the resource.
- **Format**: The file format, physical medium, or dimensions of the resource.
- **Identifier**: An unambiguous reference to the resource within a given context.
- **Language**: A language of the resource.
- **Publisher**: An entity responsible for making the resource available.
- **Relation:** A related resource.
- **Rights**: Information about rights held in and over the resource.
- **Source**: A related resource from which the described resource is derived.
- **Subject**: The topic of the resource.
- **Title**: A name given to the resource.
- **Type**: The nature or genre of the resource.

Data management plan (DMP)

- Every good project begins with a plan. Planning for data management involves the active organization and maintenance of data throughout the research process, and suitable storage, disposition, or sharing of the data at the project's completion.[1]
  - Keep your original data and store by applying the 3-2-1 rule (Save three copies of your data on two different storage mediums, and one copy off site). Do not backup or store sensitive data on a commercial cloud (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.)

[1]"What is a data management plan (DMP)?." Research data management, Library, University of Ottawa.